

15 October 2021

Dear Parent and Carers,

As promised, I am writing with additional information about the return of students to our school campus. First, a reminder about the dates for our phased return.

<b>Commencing 25 October (Week 4)</b>	• Years 9 and 10
<b>Commencing 1 November (Week 5)</b>	• Years 7 and 8
<i>From weeks 1 to 4 of term, onsite supervision and care continues to be available for vulnerable children and young people whose parents are essential workers.</i>	

Drawing on national and local health advice we have developed a return to school plan which has three key priorities:

- the health and safety of staff and young people,
- the mental and emotional well-being of students and staff, and
- ensuring continuity of learning.

Below is an outline of [ACT Health Guidelines](#) that schools are required to implement to ensure effective COVID-19 measures are in place.

<b>Use of Check in CBR app</b>	All staff and visitors must check in using the 'Check in CBR' app. Parents and carers cannot enter school grounds except for an essential reason. Visitors must call to make an appointment, or in advance of attendance. All visitors must report to the front office.
<b>Student illness</b>	Staff and students who are unwell are not able to attend school. Students who present unwell will be required to go home.
<b>Hygiene</b>	Schools will maintain and promote appropriate hand hygiene and respiratory hygiene practices. Students will need to wash hands and use hand sanitisers throughout the day. Students will not be allowed to share food or drink. Each staff member will have a bottle of sanitiser that they will have in their classroom. Additional sanitiser will be available at the front office, staffrooms and other central locations around the school. Students are encouraged to wash their hands regularly with soap and water. Subject specific variations and additional measures may be required e.g. Technology and PE signs located through the school (including toilets) will remind students to wash hands and provide instructions on how to do this effectively.
<b>Masks</b>	Staff, visitors and students must wear a face mask on campus. Masks may not be suitable for students with a disability or medical condition and schools will make allowances for those students not to wear masks. Students with an exemption will receive an exemption wrist band from the front office.

	Students are required to wear their personal masks. Masks will be available at school for those who require them. Disposable masks need to be changed every four hours. Students are to use the allocated bins provided when finished with disposable masks.
<b>Physical Distancing</b>	Physical distancing between children and young people is not always possible, particularly in single classrooms and school environments. It is however important for limiting the transmission of COVID 19. To promote physical distancing we have adjusted learning programs, breaktimes, our timetable as well as pick up and drop off arrangements. More specific information about what this means for your child is included below.
<b>Environmental cleaning</b>	Our school cleaning program includes regular cleaning of high touch services, frequently used objects, and play equipment.
<b>Ventilation</b>	All schools have been assessed to increase fresh air circulation and this involves changes to ventilation and maximising the use of outdoor learning spaces where possible.
<b>Managing suspected cases</b>	We are prepared to respond to a positive COVID-19 case on campus, should the need arise. ACT Health will provide direction to the school and community, which may result in a full or partial school closure. A student who presents with symptoms of COVID-19 will be isolated with suitable supervision, and parents will be required to collect their child. Symptomatic students will be required to wear a mask.
<b>Will schools have routine testing for COVID-19?</b>	Anyone with COVID-19 symptoms should get tested immediately. ACT Health is not recommending routine COVID-19 testing of children, young people or staff using rapid antigen testing.
<b>Wellbeing supports</b>	Wellbeing and learning supports, such as face to face appointments with the school psychologist or access to a Learning Support Assistant, will recommence with the return to school.  For parents and carers of students with a medical vulnerability: if you wish the school to make reasonable adjustments for the safe return of your child, you must consult a GP and provide medical advice to that effect. Where adjustments can't be made, the school will support your child to learn from home.

To further support the ACT Health Guidelines our school is making the following adjustments.

<b>Drop off and pick up</b>	<p>Where possible, families are encouraged to consider alternate locations for drop off and pick up. Those students accessing the school car park and bus stops in the morning or afternoon must consider appropriate physical distancing.</p> <p>Parents are unable to collect students from the front office area within the school. In the event of a student needing to be signed out early, the front office will call home and allow the student to wait in the foyer until a parent or carer is present to collect them.</p> <p>Entry and exit for students into the school will be the following sites (please see <a href="#">map</a> for additional details):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Year 7: Front of school. Students are to use gates adjacent to SPACE &amp; stairwell next to girls toilets.</li> <li>• Year 8: Rear entrance access or gate next to pump track. Students are to use stairwell closest to boys toilets/student services.</li> <li>• Year 9: Gates &amp; stairwell adjacent to science building.</li> <li>• Year 10: Rear of building via technology stairwell.</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Procedures around entry and exit of science and technology buildings will be communicated to students.</li> </ul>
<b>Teaching and learning</b>	<p><b>Timetable</b></p> <p>The MSHS school timetable for weeks 4-11 of Term 4 will be a modified version of the normal school timetable. A copy of the timetable can be found <a href="#">here</a>. Key variations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A 2-2-2 format where students will attend two lessons, have a 30 minute morning break, attend a further two lessons and then break for lunch. Students will finish the day with an additional two lessons.</li> <li>Morning TEAM (8.50am-9.00am) will not occur this term. Students will be signed in by their period one teacher. Students who are late to school are to go to Student Services (Year 9 &amp; 10); the accounts window in courtyard (Year 8); or main reception (Year 7).</li> <li>Year 7 &amp; 8 will begin Period 1 at 8:55am &amp; will finish at 3pm.</li> <li>Year 9 &amp; 10 will begin Period 1 at 9.00am &amp; will finish at 2:55pm</li> <li>This timetable will remain in place for Term 4.</li> </ul> <p><b>Learning Programs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Will be delivered face to face, on site at MSHS in timetabled classes.</li> <li>All resources will be added to individual Google Classrooms.</li> <li>Those students unable to attend on site will be expected to complete learning activities on the Google Classroom.</li> <li>Teachers will be available via email to respond to questions and provide support to these students.</li> </ul> <p><b>Extra-Curricular Programs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Band practice and Homework club will not take place this term.</li> <li>Camps, sports events, debating, excursions and incursions will not take place this term.</li> <li>All other non-essential extra-curricular programs will be cancelled until further notice including clubs at break times.</li> </ul> <p><b>Cohorts &amp; separation of year groups</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year 7 and 8 will remain with their own cohorts for all subjects.</li> <li>Year 9 and 10 will be in electives together, and separated for core subjects.</li> <li>Year groups will be separated on the playground and use different exit and entry points to the school building (see other sections for details).</li> </ul>
<b>Break times</b>	<p>Students will be released in a staggered manner and will be allocated the following areas during break times (see <a href="#">map</a> for additional details):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Years 9 &amp; 10 will move to both breaks 5 minutes prior to the bell. They will also move back into class from break, 2 minutes after the bell. This is to keep separation between junior years and the Year 9-10 cohorts.</li> <li>Year 9 &amp; 10 have been allocated bottom Waramanga Oval, basketball courts and outside fence area for break times.</li> <li>The Gym and SPACE will remain closed during break times.</li> <li>Year 7 &amp; 8 will be released and return normal time at break times.</li> <li>Year 7 have been allocated the inner courtyard and half of top Waramanga Oval for break times.</li> <li>Year 8 have been allocated the quad, inside fence and half of top Waramanga Oval for break times.</li> </ul> <p>*Alternative wet weather arrangements will be in place.</p>

<b>School canteens</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• School canteen will return to open on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> October.</li><li>• The canteen will only be available for 'click and collect' orders (<a href="#">Flexischools pre-ordering system online</a> will be the only method to order food).</li><li>• Cohorts will have separate collection times, and lines. Information around this will be communicated to students,</li></ul>
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We will continue to review and adjust these measures based on the most up to date advice from ACT Health.

Remember, all adults and children aged 12 years and above are eligible for vaccination. If your child is eligible but not yet vaccinated, we encourage you to book them in by calling the COVID-19 vaccination line on 5124 7700 daily between 7am-7pm. Bookings can also be made with some [GP clinics and pharmacies](#).

We understand that there has been considerable change and uncertainty for our students during the pandemic, and as we transition back to school. I'd remind you that you and your child can book an appointment with our Telehealth Support Service on 02 6205 1559 between 9.00am and 4.30pm weekdays. With the return to school, your child will also be able to organise face to face sessions with the school psychologist.

For more information about the return to schools, I'd recommend visiting [the Education Directorate's website](#).

You can keep up to date with the latest health information, advice and resources on the [ACT's COVID-19 website](#).

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support and understanding as we return to face-to-face schooling.

We look forward to seeing all our students back at school.

Regards,

Peter Radford

**Principal - Mount Stromlo High School**